BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM
NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. 05924.000233
QUAD
SERIES
NEG. NO.

L

listed

YOUR NAME: David L. Taylor DATE: July, 1998

YOUR ADDRESS: 9 Walnut Street, Brookville, PA 15825 TELEPHONE: 814-849-4900

ORGANIZATION (if any): Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc., for the City of Glen Cove

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IDENTIFICATION:

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Glen Cove Post Office
2. COUNTY: Nassau TOWN/CITY: Glen Cove VILLAGE:
3. STREET LOCATION: 2 Glen Cove Avenue
4. OWNERSHIP: a: public ☒ b. private ☐
5. PRESENT OWNER: General Services Administration ADDRESS: c/o U. S. Post Office, Glen Cove, NY 11542
6. USE: Original: government/post office Present: government/post office
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
   Interior accessible: Explain: during office hours in public areas only

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐
   e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
   b. wood frame with light members ☐
   c. masonry load-bearing walls ☒
   d. metal (explain):
   e. other
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when?
    c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: no associated outbuildings

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☒
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
The Post Office is not within a presently-designated historic district. It is in the central business district of the community, with the Public Library directly to the west. The main mass of the building (excluding the portico) is set back from the street with a well-tended yard. A chain-link fenced parking lot is at the rear.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (Including interior features)
This is a handsome Neo-Classical Revival-style governmental building of Flemish bond brick with a symmetrical facade and a pedimented portico which extends to the sidewalk. The portico includes stone pilasters with round-arched brick openings set within. The pilasters are trimmed with a Greek key motif and a caduceus-like figure. Into the fascia of the portico is inscribed UNITED STATES POST OFFICE. Windows are 6/6, flat-topped, and include ornamental brickwork, brick aprons, and pedimented heads with incised ornament. In the pediment of the portico is a semi-circular oculus into which is set an eagle in relief. The side elevations feature bow-front bays. A loading area is at the rear of the building.

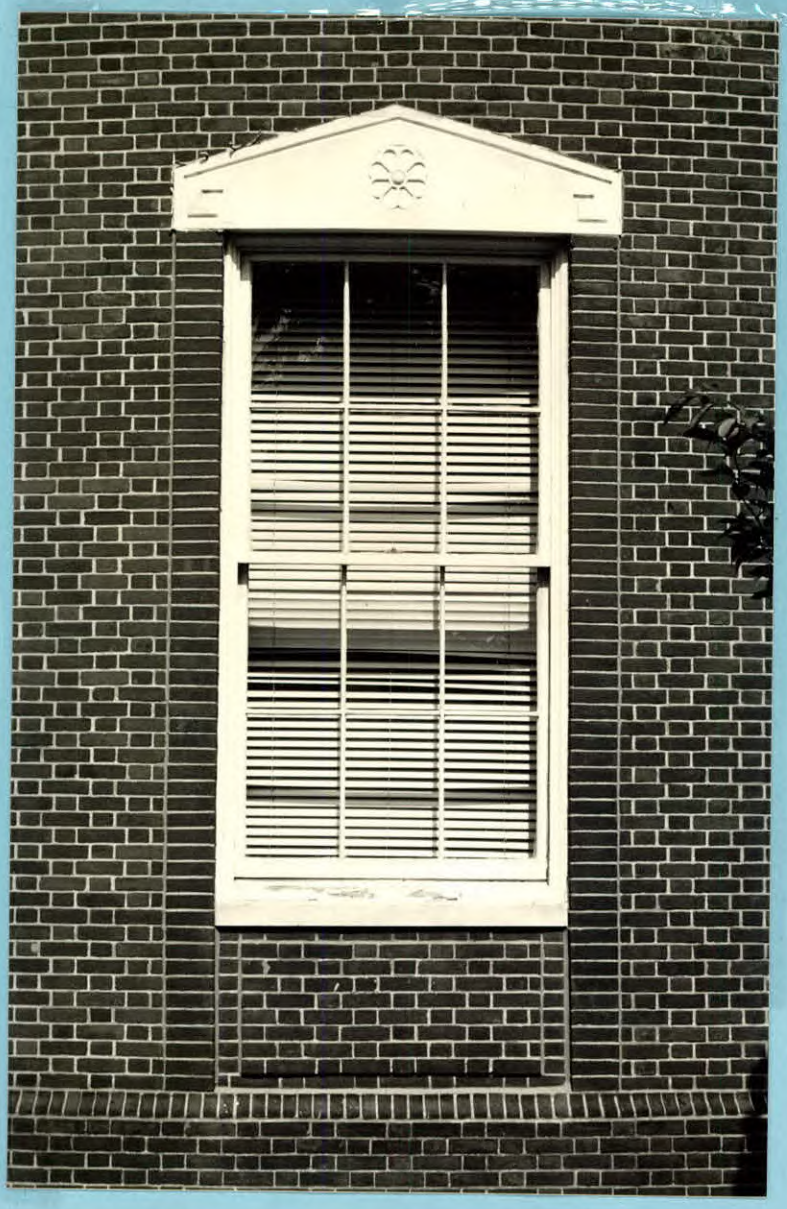
SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1932
ARCHITECT: Delano & Aldrich, New York City (N. W. Hausman, supervising architect)
BUILDER: identity unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
Significant as the work of the prominent New York architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich. The Post Office was commissioned by Harold I. Pratt, eighth son of Charles Pratt, who was one of the founders of Standard Oil and whose country estate was along Glen Cove's "Gold Coast." The Pratt family were major benefactors in the City, and donated the land and paid the architect's commissions for this handsome Post Office. The building derives additional significance for the importance of its architect, the firm of William A. Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich. They practiced together from 1903 until Aldrich's death in 1940 and were responsible for major commissions including the Rockefeller estate at Pocantico Hills, the Long Island summer homes of the Astors and Otto Kahn, as well as numerous urban projects.

21. SOURCES:
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Glen Cove, New York (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1931).
Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey **Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)** (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), pp. 13-14.

22. THEME:



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DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. 05924.000233
QUAD
SERIES
NEG. NO.

Pr 29

YOUR NAME: Erin Drake (S. P. L. I. A.) DATE: 23 June 1980

YOUR ADDRESS: 93 N. Country Rd., Setauket TELEPHONE: 516-941-9444

ORGANIZATION (if any): Glen Cove Historical Society

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IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Glen Cove Post Office
2. COUNTY: Nassau TOWN/CITY: Glen Cove VILLAGE:
3. STREET LOCATION: Pratt Blvd.
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ■ b. private ☐
5. PRESENT OWNER: U. S. Gov't ADDRESS:
6. USE: Original: post office Present: post office
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ■ No ☐
   Interior accessible: Explain at posted hours

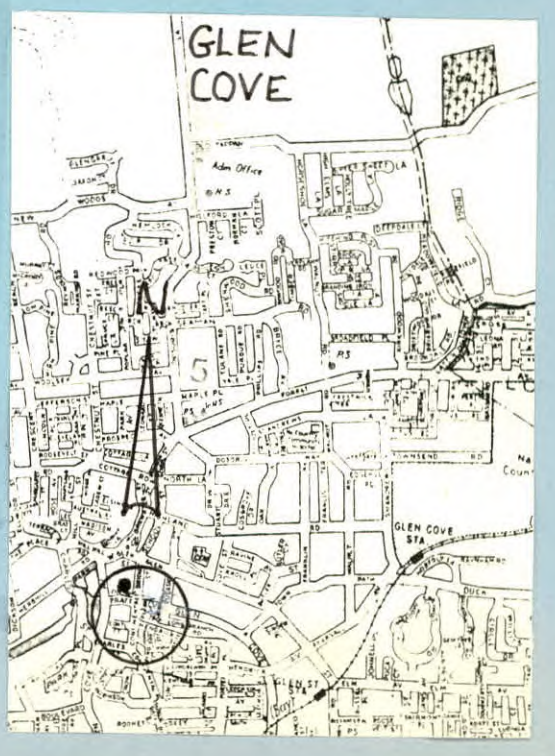
DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ■ c. brick ■ d. board and batten ☐
   e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known)
   a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
   b. wood frame with light members ☐
   c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
   d. metal (explain) exposed metal trusswork in the northern half of central gable
   e. other
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ■ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ■ b. moved ☐ if so, when?
    c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

12. PHOTO:

Pr-Gl C roll 17, neg. 19A (ED)
southern (entrance) and eastern facades

13. MAP: Hagstrom and Co., Map of Nassau County



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14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ■ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: _____

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☐
d. densely built-up ■ e. commercial ■
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐
h. other: number of civic structures nearby

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

Please see attached sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

Please see attached sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1932

ARCHITECT: Delano and Aldrich; James A. Wetmore, acting sup'v. architect

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Please see attached sheet

21. SOURCES:

Please see attached sheet

22. THEME:

Charles Pratt's family's contributions to the city of Glen Cove.

CONTINUATION SHEET: "DOSORIS PARK" SURVEY Sheet #: 1

Building Address: Pratt Blvd.

Pratt Code #: PR 29

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Item 17:

This civic structure is one of three in close proximity along Pratt Blvd. All three are primarily Neo-Georgian in style, but this one is by far the most notable architecturally; the richness of its materials and detail as well as the superiority of its design distinguishes it from its neighbors. The building appears as part of the New York State Survey District nomination entitled "'Dosoris': the Pratt family's complex of estates in Glen Cove" as well as a National Register Thematic District nomination bearing the same name.

Item 18:

The original structure is essentially rectalinear in plan, although a segmentally curved bay projects out along its eastern facade. It is also one story high, and made of brick laid in Flemish bond and trimmed with marble; a newer, one-story brick loading dock now extends out from the building's western facade, however. Although the bulk of the building has a flat roof, a narrow, gable roof extends across the center of the structure from north to south connecting the triangular pediment-topped front portico, to a triangular pediment over the raised central section of the northern facade. The portico along the front facade extends out over a central doorway that is flanked by single windows and reached by double stairs. The portico itself has arched openings flanked by marble pilasters topped by a simple marble entablature. An oval marble medallion ornamented with an eagle marks the center of the pediment's tympanum above. The rest of the building's windows have simple sills, and triangular-

CONTINUATION SHEET: "DOSORIS PARK" SURVEY Sheet #: 2

Building Address: Pratt Blvd.

Pratt Code #: PR 29

* *

Item 18 (continued):

shaped lintels ornamented with floral, and Greek key motifs. A projecting marble entablature encircles the structure, while a simple brick parapet wall projects on up above.

The structure's public interior is also largely intact. Fielded, glazed oak panelling ornamented with pilasters lines the walls of the space which also has a coved ceiling, and most of its original furnishings.

Item 20:

The history of this post office is inextricably linked to Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Pratt; Harold I. Pratt was the eighth child of Charles Pratt, a kerosene magnate who founded Pratt Institute, who was also one of the founders of the Standard Oil Co. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt not only donated the land upon which this structure was built, but chose the prestigious architectural firm of Delano and Aldrich to design it, and personally paid their architectural fees. They resided at "Welwyn" their estate nearby, which was part of "Dosoris", the Pratt family's complex of estates in Glen Cove.

This generous gift by members of the Pratt family to Glen Cove was one of many. Starting at early as 1891 the estate of Charles Pratt donated the land at the northwest corner of Forest Avenue and Dosoris Lane for the construction of the Glen Cove High School; the site is presently occupied by the Glen Cove Middle School (Please see GlC 2).

Over the centuries wealthy families have tradi-

CONTINUATION SHEET: "DOSORIS PARK" SURVEY Sheet #: 3

Building Address: Pratt Blvd.

Pratt Code #: PR 29

* *

Item 20 (continued):

tionally contributed to the betterment of the communities in which they resided. A famous American example is the Ames family in North Easton, Mass. which donated both that town's library and Memorial (town) Hall which were designed by the noted architect, Henry Hobson Richardson.

The architects of this post office, Delano and Aldrich, had had a long-term association with Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Pratt prior to this commission: In 1919 they had designed a Manhattan townhouse for them, at 58 East 68th Street, and in 1930 they had designed a recreation building for them at "Welwyn" (Please see PR 28B).

All three of these buildings were executed in the English Renaissance and Georgian-inspired styles so popular at the time. In the case of civic structures a readily recognizable version of the Neo-Georgian style, red brick trimmed with light colored, Renaissance-derived detail, was and still is used to engender civic pride; it serves as a symbol of America's colonial heritage. The richness of this structure's materials and details adds much to its handsomeness. Surely its having been built during the W.P.A. era with federal funds does much to explain its vast superiority to the municipally funded city hall across the street, designed three years later by the same firm under the same arrangement with the Pratts (Please see PR 29).

Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Pratt were accomplished in their own right and extremely active in Glen Cove's affairs.

CONTINUATION SHEET: "DOSORIS PARK" SURVEY Sheet #: 4

Building Address: Pratt Blvd.

Pratt Code #: PR 29

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Item 21:

Cornerstone of building.

Doyle, Edith. "Growth of the Post Office is Barometer of City's Progress." Glen Cove Echo, 25 May 1950, Sect. 3, p. 4.

"Harold I. Pratt, 62, Financier, is Dead". Obituary, New York Times, 22 May 1939, p. 17, col. 1.

Leach, Arthur W. Plan Showing Proposed Improvements For Park At Or Near Lower Mill Pond, Glen Cove, Nassau County, New York, 17 April 1935.

"Mrs. Pratt Dead: A Horticulturalist". Obituary, New York Times, 20 March 1969.